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ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY OF POLAND

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In 1955 the Polish people took stock of their Six-Year Plan. During the years of carrying out the tasks of the Six-Year Plan -- a plan to build the bases of socialism -- the workers of the Polish People's Republic, led by the United Polish Workers Party, achieved great progress in the socialist transformation of the country's entire economy and in overcoming the century-old economic lag inherited from capitalism. In describing the state of the Polish national economy at the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, comrade Bierut said that "the Polish people have made great accomplishments in the development of industry and other branches of the national economy, in the rapid growth in public health, education, and cultural development, and in raising the general living standard. Great fraternal aid was rendered the people of Poland in their building of socialism by the Soviet Union and the Soviet Communist Party."

There are as yet no complete data on the fulfillment of the Six-Year Plan. However, the information appearing in the Polish press alone attests to the fact that the objectives of this plan have been basically achieved.

The gross output of the socialist industry of the Polish People's Republic was to have risen 158% during the Six-Year Plan. In fact however it increased 181% during these years. By comparison with prewar 1937, Poland's industrial production had increased 4.8 times by the end of the Six-Year Plan, and on a per capita basis, by nearly 6 times. Throughout its entire history Poland had never known such rapid industrial expansion. During the years of the Six-Year Plan the annual rate of growth in industrial output in Poland was 18%, while at the same time it was 3.5% in Britain during the same years and 5.3% in France.

As a result, by the end of the Six-Year Plan a high level of production had been achieved both in heavy and in the light industries. For example Poland is at present producing 3 times more steel than before the war, 2.5 times more coal, almost 5 times more electric power, 10 times more agricultural machinery and tools, more than twice as much cement, cotton textiles, and sugar, and almost twice as much paper.

But we are not merely dealing with a quantitative rise in the output of the industry of the Polish People's Republic. During the Six-Year Plan Poland created a series of new industry branches such as the manufacturing of automobiles and tractors, modern shipbuilding, airplane construction, and a number of others.

As the result of fulfilling its Six-Year Plan, a solid foundation has been laid in Poland not only for the further growth of industry but also for the development of other branches of the national economy: construction, transport, communications, and agricultural production based on the socialist reorganization of the countryside.

During the Six-Year Plan the number of industrial workers in Poland has greatly increased. The number of workers engaged in the country's industry grew from 1.7 million in 1949 to 2.7 million in 1955. During

these past years the culture and professional qualifications of the Polish workers have risen remarkably. In the course of carrying out the Six-Year Plan new cadres of engineers, technicians, foremen, and qualified workers were created.

Along with the significant growth in industrial output under the Six-Year Plan, there have appeared a number of disparities in the structure of Polish industry, as the Polish press is now noting. Thus, inadequate development of its own sources of raw materials has resulted in incomplete utilization of the productive capacities in the machine industry and in certain other branches of industry. The production of consumer goods in Poland still lags behind growing demands for these commodities. There exists a serious deficiency in the slow mastering of new techniques, as a consequence of which the economic efficiency of some industrial enterprises is still not sufficiently high. The level of productivity of the machinery used in agriculture and construction does not meet the requirements of these branches of the national economy.

Not all branches of industry have succeeded equally in carrying out the tasks assigned to them. In a number of individual branches of industrial production the goals of the Six-Year Plan for a significant rise in output were not met. The nonfulfillment of some output targets of the Six-Year Plan resulted from the fact that the growth in production capacity of a number of industrial enterprises, called for by the plan, was not attained. Moreover, as the Polish press indicates, much still remains to be done by the managers of Polish industry in the way of fuller utilization of the production capacity already available and in applying new techniques and advanced working methods.

Discrepancies in the development of industry and agriculture have exerted a negative influence on the fulfillment of the objectives of the Six-Year Plan. Whereas the industry of Poland, representing the socialist sector of the economy, is developing at a rapid rate, agriculture, where the old productive relationships still predominate, has shown that it is unable to cope fully with the tasks of the Six-Year Plan. Nevertheless, gross agricultural output in 1955 exceeded the level of prewar years by 8%. In the course of the Six-Year Plan, about 500,000 ha of fallow and idle lands were put into production in the country. Per capita grain output rose from 365 kg in 1934-1938 to 420 kg by 1954. In 1955 the grain harvest in Poland was 15% higher than in the preceding year. By the end of the Six-Year Plan the total number of cattle in the country had reached 7.9 million head; sheep, 4.2 million head; and hogs, 10.9 million head. The prewar number of hogs has already been surpassed.

During the Six-Year Plan the socialist sector in Polish agriculture has grown. State farms and productive cooperatives cultivated 23% of all tillable soil in the country; 424 machine-tractor stations and more than 2,900 farm machinery rental centers assisted the cooperatives and individual farms in working the fields. The tractor inventory in Poland by the end of last year amounted to 56,000 tractors, in terms of 15 hp units.

Despite the difficulties encountered on the path of developing Poland's national economy, the basic objective of the Six-Year Plan was achieved: the first stage in the industrialization of the country has been completed. The efforts of the whole Polish people and with the brotherly support of the peoples of the Soviet Union and the other countries in the camp of peace and democracy, have resulted in a mighty heavy industry in Poland -- the basis for the development of the entire economy of the country and the indispensable condition for the improvement of the well-being of the working masses.

in characterizing the development of individual branches of Polish industry, one should examine first of all the coal industry, which is very significant from the point of view of the expansion of the productive forces of the whole democratic camp and from the viewpoint of an international division of labor. Polish coal, the deposits of which are located in the south of the country, is almost in the geographic center of the people's democracies of Europe, and plays an important role in the economy of these countries. The coal industry is the basic, the genuinely people's branch of Polish industry.

According to the Six-Year Plan, it was proposed to increase the amount of coal mined to 100 million by 1955. However, as a result of delays in starting up new mines (6 new mines instead of the 11 projected were put into operation) and also as a result of the fact that the newly constructed mines did not attain their projected capacity, the targets of the Six-Year Plan for the mining of coal were not reached. In the last year of the Six-Year Plan the amount of coal mined in Poland was 94.4 million t, but together with brown coal it exceeded 100 million t. During the years of the Six-Year Plan 523.4 million t of coal in all were mined in Poland. In coal mining Poland now occupies fifth place in the world. The per capita use of coal in Poland for heating purposes increased from 125 kg in 1938 to 527 kg in 1955. During the past 6 years more than 150 million t of coal were exported from Poland. The revenue obtained from the export of coal covers up to 40% of the value of imported commodities. Polish coal is exported to 26 countries, in which connection approximately 70% of all the coal exported goes to the USSR and the people's democracies.

The United Polish Workers Party and the government of the People's Republic of Poland are devoting much attention to the development of the coal industry. The state invests great sums in the coal mining industry. An important point in the task of improving Poland's coal industry is the attainment of a further labor output increase in this branch of production. In recent years the production of mining equipment has been mastered in Poland. In addition to the mining combines and other machinery in the mines which were built from Soviet models, there are also in operation similar combines, cutting machines, coal loaders, conveyors, and jet nozzles of Polish construction.

New production methods are being introduced into the coal industry. The introduction of hydraulic machinery in Polish mines is facilitating the mining and transportation of coal. The hydraulic method of mining coal applied in the "Czeladz," "Siersza," "Paris Commune," and a number of other mines has made it possible to increase the labor output of the miners and at the same time to insure the safety of their work. In 1956-1958 hydromechanization will be introduced in at least 10 other mines. It is also planned to construct 5 new mines equipped for hydraulic processing of the coal. During the forthcoming Five-Year Plan (1956-1960), approximately 15 new mines will be brought into operation.

During the past 6 years the mining of coking coals in Poland has considerably increased. Thanks to an improvement in the technological process of producing coke, other types of coal have also been used with success, such as bituminous coals.

Under the Six-Year Plan, 16 modern mechanized coking batteries were built in Poland. New batteries entered into operation at the V. I. Lenin Metallurgical Combine in Nowa Huta, at the "Kosciuszko" Metallurgical Plant, at the "Makorszowy" and "Gliwice" coke-chemical plants, and at other enterprises in the country. The new batteries, which provide about 40% of all the coke produced in the country, are not inferior in the size

of their chambers to the largest batteries existing in other countries.

The production of coke in Poland in 1955 reached almost 10 million t, whereas in 1938 there were produced 5.1 million t of coke on Polish territory and in the districts incorporated after the war into People's Poland. Thus, during the years of the people's government, the output of coke in Poland increased almost 2-fold; but, if one considers Poland within her old boundaries, then it has more than quadrupled. The objective of the Six-Year Plan in this field was fulfilled 105.6%. In the production of coke, as in the mining of coal also, Poland has moved up to fifth place in the world.

In the course of the Six-Year Plan Poland became a fairly important exporter of coke. The expanding metallurgical industry in her sister countries -- the German Democratic Republic, Rumania, and Hungary -- function mainly on Polish coke. Coke for household use is also exported by Poland to some countries in Western Europe. At the present time Poland exports abroad as much coke as was produced in the country in the prewar period.

A significant expansion occurred in Poland in the production of the byproducts obtained from the processing of coke, such valuable types of production as tars, benzol, dyes, "stilon," etc. The production of coke gas increased from 419.4 million cu m in 1949 to 1.300 billion cu m in 1955. During the Five-Year Plan (1956-1960) tens of new coking batteries will be put into operation; among these, new batteries will be installed at the V. I. Lenin Combine, at the Boleslaw Bierut Metallurgical Plant, as well as at a number of metallurgical and coke-chemical plants in Silesia.

The Six-Year Plan has been distinguished by large-scale successes in increasing the power producing capacity of the country. The production of electric power rose from 8.3 billion kwh in 1949 to 17.6 billion kwh in 1955, i.e., more than double. In the period 1949-1955 the annual rate of growth in the production of electric power in Poland amounted to 13.3% and was higher than in any industrial country of Western Europe and America. During the Six-Year Plan such powerful electric stations were built in the country as "Jaworzno II," "Miechowice," and "Dychow." An important thermo-electric power plant is in the process of construction at Zeran (near Warsaw). The old electric power plants -- "Laziska," "Chorzow," "Szombierki," "Stalowa Wola," "Szczecin," and many others -- have been considerably enlarged and modernized. Such powerful power producing units as the power plants at the V. I. Lenin Metallurgical Combine, at the Kedzierzyn Chemical Combine in Oswiecim, and others have also been built.

Due to the modernization of equipment and the rational utilization of fuel in the thermoelectric plants of Poland, the consumption of coal used in producing one kwh of electric power was reduced from 787 g in 1950 to 578 g in 1955.

Of considerable importance is the creation in Poland of a single power system which connects all electric power plants in the country. The overall length of the high tension lines (110,000 and 220,000 v) increased from 1,987 km in 1950 to 5,594 km in 1955. Under the Six-Year Plan a high tension line was built connecting the industrial regions of Silesia, Lodz, and Warsaw. The projected Five-Year Plan aims at increasing the capacity of the Polish electric power plants by 80% and the production of electric power by 70%. During the Five-Year Plan a number of new electric power plants will be constructed in Poland. The thermoelectric power plant in Skawina will not be inferior in capacity to the "Jaworzno II" Power Plant. The thermoelectric power plant at Konin will operate on local lignite.

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The hydroelectric power plant at Brzeg Dolny on the Oder will begin to produce power in 1957. The construction of a number of other hydroelectric power plants will be started. It is planned to set up the first atomic electric power plant in Poland. By 1960 the production of electric power should increase to 30 billion kwh. In producing one kwh of electric energy, it is planned by 1960 to have reduced the consumption of conventional fuel to 496 g.

Great successes have been achieved by the Polish metallurgists. According to the Ministry of Metallurgy, the production of pig iron in 1955 amounted to 3.1 million t and the smelting of steel to 4.45 million t.

During the Six-Year Plan the production of steel in Poland rose 93%. During these same years the increase in steel output in Britain was 26%; in France it amounted to 27%.

The significant expansion in the metallurgical industry during the Six-Year Plan was accompanied by important qualitative changes in the iron and steel industry. In the course of these years 2 blast furnaces were built in Poland, each with a capacity of more than 800 cu m, (not counting the furnaces at the V. I. Lenin Metallurgical Combine); 10 new Martin furnaces were built and 6 restored to operation. Powerful blooming mills were put into operation at the "Bobrek" and "Florian" metallurgical plants. A number of rolling mills were constructed and put into operation, including mills for the rolling of steel strips, tubing, sheets, etc.

In Poland's iron and steel industry a special place is occupied by the V. I. Lenin Metallurgical Combine in Nowa Huta, which is being built with the aid of the Soviet Union. The first stage in the construction of the combine has been completed. Here there are already 2 blast furnaces in operation, each of which is 1,000 cu m in size, 3 370 t Martin furnaces and one furnace of 180 t, a sintering plant, a blooming mill with an annual output capacity of 1.5 million t of rolled steel, 4 coking batteries, a plant for the production of refractory materials, repair shops, etc. Construction is being completed on a large mill for rolling molten steel. Under the Six-Year Plan the average size of the blast furnaces in Poland increased from 383.4 cu m to 508.6 cu m. The percentage of pig iron delivered to the blast furnaces by means of mechanized loading amounts at the present time to 61%. In certain plants the introduction of automation of the Martin furnaces has already begun.

An indication of the qualitative changes occurring in Polish metallurgy is the mastering of methods for the production of new types of steel, including quality steels. At the present time almost all the types of steel and alloys are being produced in Poland that are required in machine-building, electric engineering, and other branches of industry.

The output of basic types of nonferrous metals has increased. In the output of zinc Poland ranks fifth in the world. Zinc and zinc products are one of the basic items in Polish export trade. The production of lead has almost doubled the prewar level. In the production of cadmium Poland occupies first place in the democratic camp. During the Six-Year Plan the smelting of copper was put on a sound footing; an aluminum plant was placed in operation at Skawina.

The new draft Five-Year Plan proposes to increase steel output to 7 million t during the next 5 years and to increase significantly the production of nonferrous metals.

Great changes have occurred in Poland's machine-building industry

during the past 6 years. A number of branches in machine construction which did not exist in prewar Poland have been created. The production of ships, automobiles, and tractors has risen considerably. The tonnage of ships built at Polish dockyards increased between 1949 and 1955 from 5,100 t deadweight to 103,100 t deadweight. The first product of Polish shipbuilding was the collier "Soldek" with a load capacity of 2,540 t, which was launched in 1949. At the present time ships with tonnages up to 10,000 t deadweight are being built at Polish dockyards. According to the Lloyd's rating, among 22 countries engaged in shipbuilding (not including the USSR), Poland ranks eleventh in terms of tonnage and eighth in terms of the number of ships launched. The exporting of ships has become one of the most important items in Poland's foreign trade and in value it occupies second place after coal. From 1950 to 1955 the exporting of ships from Poland increased almost 20 times.

All of Poland's industry is actively contributing to the rapid expansion of Polish shipbuilding. Poland's machine-building enterprises are successfully mastering the production of new types of naval equipment, due to which the importing of articles relating to this group is being sharply curtailed. The value of imported equipment for mass-produced colliers of 5,000 t deadweight has decreased considerably and constitutes about 2% of the entire value of the freighter. The time required in ship construction has been sharply reduced. Whereas the collier "Soldek" was built over a period of about 2 years, considerably larger ships are now being built in 8 months. The draft Five-Year Plan provides for increasing the output of Poland's shipbuilding industry almost 2-fold by 1960.

In the period of the Six-Year Plan the automobile plant in Strachowice turned out about 37,000 "Star-20" trucks which beginning in 1953 were exported by Poland to Bulgaria, Finland, Turkey, and other countries. During the Six-Year Plan the Polish automakers likewise mastered the production of "Lublin" trucks based on the Soviet "GAZ-51." An offspring of the Six-Year Plan is the light automobile factory in Zeran near Warsaw. In 1951 the assembling of the first M-20 "Warsaw" passenger cars was begun at this factory from parts produced in the Soviet Union. Two years later the factory started to produce parts for these cars. At the present time 90% of the parts for this automobile are made in Poland. Since 1954 Poland has been exporting automobiles of the "Warsaw" model. The factory has turned out about 9,000 passenger cars in all. During the Six-Year Plan Poland's motorcycle and bicycle factories produced 70,000 motorcycles and 850,000 bicycles. In order to meet the needs of agriculture, the "Ursus" Tractor Factory produced about 36,500 tractors in the course of the Six-Year Plan, i. e., more than the plan specified.

Other branches also of the Polish machine-building industry considerably increased their volume of production. While meeting the domestic needs of the country, the Polish machine-builders are at the same time augmenting the output of export items year by year. Whereas in 1949 the share of machine output in Polish export trade represented 3% in all, in 1955 it exceeded 12%. Railroad rolling stock ranks third by value in Polish exports. Polish locomotives and railroad cars are circulating over the railroads of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, and Rumania. Poland recently sold railroad rolling stock to Yugoslavia, India, Egypt, Iran, and Turkey.

The chemical industry of Poland met the targets of the 1955 plan on time, increasing output over 1954 by approximately 17%; in this connection the output of such basic chemical products as sulfuric acid, carbide, etc was considerably expanded. The production of artificial fertilizers and synthetic fiber was increased many times over the prewar level. In recent

years in Poland the production of many types of important medicinal remedies was mastered which are now exported to many countries in Europe and Asia, including also countries with a highly developed pharmaceutical industry such as Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, the German Democratic People's Republic, and the German Federal Republic.

Considerable success has been attained by the construction materials industry of Poland. For example the output of cement, which in 1949 amounted to 2.34 million t, increased to 3.8 million t by 1955; i. e., it increased more than 2-fold by comparison with the prewar period.

Under the Six-Year Plan the production of 6 new types of cement was mastered in Poland. Polish cement possesses excellent qualities. This stimulates an ever-greater demand for it on the foreign market. The exporting of cement from Poland has increased greatly and exceeds many times the prewar level.

In the course of the Six-Year Plan the output of textiles, shoes, and clothing as well as enameled ware and other articles of household use has increased significantly. In this connection, the output of leather shoes, furniture and many other articles manufactured by the light industry was higher in 1955 than projected by the Six-Year Plan. The food industry produced much more for the domestic market than in previous years. The supplying of the domestic market with consumer goods improved; per capita consumption of basic commodities increased.

Thus during the past 6 years the Polish people have taken a decisive step forward on the road toward the industrialization of their country. In the course of the Six-Year Plan, a huge industrial production potential was created. Never before was Poland as strong in an economic sense as now.

In characterizing the economic progress of the Polish people, comrade Ochab, First Secretary, Central Committee, United Polish Workers Party, at a conference of party activists of Warsaw and the Warsaw Region, stated on 6 April 1956 that, "in the course of the years just past, we have as a result of socialist construction transformed Poland's national economy to a significant degree. Industrial output has expanded at very rapid rates. The material and technological base for a heavy industry and for maintaining the defensive capabilities of the country has been created, a base which insures simultaneously the possibility of a more rapid expansion of agricultural production and a more rapid socialist transformation of the countryside."

On the basis of a rise in industrial output and the development of agriculture and other branches of Poland's national economy during the years of the Six-Year Plan, the national income of the country has grown, and the material and cultural living levels of the Polish people have risen.

Confronting the workers of Poland is the task, during the coming Five-Year Plan, to achieve a new surge in the economy and culture of their country. Inspired by the successes achieved during the Six-Year Plan, the Polish people, led by the United Polish Workers Party, has applied itself with enthusiasm to the fulfillment of the important tasks of the Five-Year Plan for the development of their country's national economy.



FIGURE CAPTIONS

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Loading coal in a Polish port.

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The "Jaworzno II" Thermoelectric Power Plant.

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Ship launching at Danzig shipyard.

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Column of "Star-20" trucks.

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The Cement Plant at Rejewcie.

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A shop in the textile plant at Piotrkow.

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